

Chinese Speaking Communities Profile

PLEASE NOTE: This profile provides an overview of some of the cultural information relating to the diverse groups of Chinese speaking population who live in the Eastern Region of Melbourne. This description may not apply to all people as individual experiences may vary. However this profile can be used as a guide to some of the issues that may concern your clients.

Language:

- Mandarin and Cantonese are the two main languages/dialects spoken by the Chinese speaking communities in Australia.
- Other major languages/dialects are: Teo Chew, Hokkien, Hakka, Shanghainese (Wu) and many more.
- There are two forms of Chinese written language: Traditional Form and Simplified Form.
- Traditional Form is used by most of the Chinese newspapers and publication in Australia, and is used by the Chinese speaking people aged 60 and over. Many Chinese language schools in Australia teach Simplified Chinese and the governments' publications in Australia use both forms.

Migration:

- Overseas-born Chinese speaking people migrated to Australia from a number of different countries - China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, and other countries.

Many Chinese speaking people share the same cultural heritage although they migrated to Australia from different countries. More cultural information about Chinese speaking communities please refers to the Cultural Profile relating their country of birth.

Key Chinese Festivals / Significant Dates:

Chinese people celebrate traditional festivals follow a lunar calendar

- Chinese (Lunar) New Year *1st day of the 1st lunar month*
- Lantern Festival *15th day of the 1st lunar month*
- Qing Ming (Tomb Sweeping Day/Mourning Day) *4th or 5th of April*
- Duan Wu (Dragon Boat Festival) *5th day of the 5th lunar month*
- Mid-Autumn (Moon Cake) Festival *15th day of the 8th lunar month*
- National Day (China, Hong Kong & Macau only) *1st of October*

Timetable of Chinese Traditional Festivals (2010-2012)

Year	Chinese New Year	Lantern Festival	Qing Ming Festival	Dragon Boat	Mid-autumn Festival
2010	Feb. 14	Feb.28	Apr. 5	Jun. 16	Sept. 22
2011	Feb. 3	Feb.17	Apr. 5	Jun. 6	Sept. 12
2012	Jan. 23	Feb. 6	Apr. 4	Jun. 23	Sept. 30

**For other significant dates related to religious observances, refer to the Christian and Buddhist religious profiles.*

Demographics: Chinese Speaking Population Aged 50 years and Over EMR (2006 Census)

LGA	Chinese Languages	Aged 50- 69	Aged 70 - 79	Aged 80+	Total No of people aged 70 and over	Total No of Chinese speaking population	People aged 70 yrs as a % of the total Chinese speaking population
Monash	Cantonese	1666	259	95	354	7898	4.48%
	Mandarin	1162	207	55	262	9910	2.64%
	Other Chinese Languages	246	42	25	67	1143	5.86%
	Total	3074	508	175	683	18951	3.60%
Whitehorse	Cantonese	1363	292	164	456	6742	6.76%
	Mandarin	852	204	60	264	6301	4.19%
	Other Chinese Languages	244	53	22	75	908	8.26%
	Total	2459	549	246	795	13951	5.70%
Manningham	Cantonese	2083	364	143	507	8145	6.22%
	Mandarin	834	129	32	161	4683	3.44%
	Other Chinese Languages	290	34	10	44	620	7.10%
	Total	3207	527	185	712	13448	5.29%
Boroondara	Cantonese	1174	203	81	284	4769	5.96%
	Mandarin	709	122	30	152	5257	2.89%
	Other Chinese Languages	161	33	9	42	675	6.22%
	Total	2044	358	120	478	10701	4.47%
Knox	Cantonese	843	118	42	160	3494	4.58%
	Mandarin	399	49	12	61	2038	2.99%
	Other Chinese Languages	165	76	23	99	617	16.05%
	Total	1407	243	77	320	6149	5.20%
Maroondah	Cantonese	170	26	14	40	643	6.22%
	Mandarin	78	12	7	19	545	3.49%
	Other Chinese Languages	34	0	0	0	188	0.00%
	Total	282	38	21	59	1376	4.29%
Yarra Ranges	Cantonese	47	8	3	11	176	6.25%
	Mandarin	40	0	0	0	322	0.00%
	Other Chinese Languages	8	6	0	6	77	7.79%
	Total	95	14	3	17	575	2.96%
EMR	Cantonese	7346	1270	542	1812	31867	5.69%
	Mandarin	4074	723	196	919	29056	3.16%
	Other Chinese Languages	1043	200	89	289	4228	6.84%
	Total	12463	2193	827	3020	65151	4.64%



home and community care
A JOINT COMMONWEALTH AND STATE/TERRITORY PROGRAM
PROVIDING FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE FOR AUSTRALIANS IN NEED

Migrant Information Centre (Eastern Melbourne)

www.miceastmelb.com.au

Multicultural Equity & Access Program

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MIGRANT INFORMATION CENTRE
EASTERN MELBOURNE

A.B.N. 27 084 251 669

Local services and activities useful for older Chinese speaking people in EMR

Settlement Services

Provide Information, referral, casework for refugees and family migrants who arrived in the last five years.

Name	Address	Contact
Migrant Information Centre (Eastern Melbourne)	Suite 2, Town Hall Hub, 27 Bank Street, Box Hill Vic 3128	9285 4888
New Hope Migrant and Refugee Centre	18 Chester Street, OAKLEIGH, VIC 3166	9563 4130
Chinese Community Social Service Centre	Suite 11, level 1, Professional Suites, Centro Box Hill North, 17 Market Street, Box Hill Vic 3128	9898 1965
Federation of Chinese Associations	1/64-66 Kings Way, Glen Waverley 3150 (Tuesdays only) 1A Palmerston Grove, Oakleigh 3166 (Wednesdays 1- 4:30pm)	9650 1293

Aged Care & Disability Support Services

Chinese Planned Activity Groups (High Need)

Name of Organisation & Contact Details	LGA	Venue	Time
Chinese Community Social Services Centre 14 Livingstone Close, Burwood Vic 3125 Tel: 9888 8671/ 9888 8493	Whitehorse	14 Livingstone Close, Burwood 3125	Wednesdays & Thursday
	Manningham	St Mark's Anglican Church 6 Dellfield Drive Lower Templestowe 3107	Tuesdays
	Monash	Mulgrave Community Centre 355 Wellington Road, Mulgrave 3170	Fridays
	Knox	Knox Gardens Community Hall Argyle Way Wantirna South 3152	Thursday
	Manningham	177 -179 Tindals Road, Donvale 3111	1 st & 3 rd Mondays Dementia Specific

Chinese Planned Activity Groups (Core)

Name of Organisation & Contact Details	LGA	Venue	Time
Chinese Community Social Services Centre 14 Livingstone Close Burwood Vic 3125 Tel: 9888 8671 or 9888 8493	Whitehorse	14 Livingstone Close Burwood 3125	Wednesday & Thursday

Other Social Support Groups for Chinese Seniors

Name of Organisation & Contact Details	LGA	Venue	Time
Doncare Chinese Walking Group Social Support for Seniors Program, c/o Doncare, 8 Montgomery Street, East Doncaster Vic 3109 Phone 9841 4215	Manningham	Doncaster East Uniting Church Anderson's Creek Rd East Doncaster	Wednesday morning (in school term)
Chinese Carers Group Manningham City Council C/- Aged and Disability Support Service, 699 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster 3108 (03) 9840 9700	Manningham	Koonarra Hall Bulleen Vic 3105	1 st Tuesday

Migrant Information Centre Aged Care & Disability Services

Address: Suite 2, Town Hall Hub, 27 Bank Street, Box Hill Vic 3128
Tel: 9275 6901 (direct) or 9285 4888.

The aged and disability team aims to increase access to aged care and disability services for CALD communities in the EMR through working with CALD communities to promote those services, provide information and referral, and supporting organisations to provide culturally appropriate care. The team also receives funding for specific projects in this area.

Chinese Community Social Service Centre

Home and Community Care (HACC) Program provides

- Planned Activity Group (PAG) – High
- Planned Activity Group (PAG) – Core
- Dementia Planned Activity Group
- Volunteer Coordination

Address: 14 Livingstone Close, Burwood Vic 3125
Tel: (03) 9888 8671

Community Aged Care Packages (CACPS) Program

Address: Suite 11, Level 1, Professional Suites, Centro Box Hill North
17 Market Street, Box Hill Vic 3128
Tel: (03) 9898 1965

On Luck Chinese Nursing Home

Address: 177-179 Tindals Road, Donvale Vic 3111

Tel: 9844 3813

Senior Citizens Groups: For more information please contact local councils or Migrant Information Centre (Eastern Melbourne) on 9285 4888.

Name of the Club	LGA	Venue	Time
Boroondara Chinese Senior Citizens Association Inc.	Boroondara	45 Talbot Ave Balwyn 3103	Mondays 10am to 3pm
Eastern Senior Chinese Association Inc	Boroondara	Kew Senior Citizens Centre 533 High St Kew 3101	Wednesdays 10am to 3pm
Chinese Senior Citizens Club of Manningham	Manningham	Manningham City Council Function Centre 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster 3108	Wednesdays 10am - 2pm
Monash Chinese Friendship Association	Monash	44-48 Montclair Ave Glen Waverley, 3150	Tuesdays, 10am to 3pm
Waverley Chinese Senior Citizen's Club Inc	Monash	Senior Citizens Centre 700 Waverley Road Glen Waverley 3150	Mondays & Thursdays 10am to 12noon, 1pm to 3pm
Box Hill Chinese Senior Citizens' Club	Whitehorse	Box Hill Senior Citizen's Centre 79 Carrington Road Box Hill, 3128	Wednesdays 10am – 3:30pm
Jing Song Senior Chinese Men's Inc	Whitehorse	The Pines Senior Citizens Centre 25 Central Rd Blackburn 3130	Tuesdays 9am – 12.30pm
Victoria Hua Xin Chinese Women's Association	Whitehorse	Wesley Uniting Church 4 Oxford Street Box Hill 3128	Fridays 9am – 12pm
Eastern Region Chinese Social Club	Whitehorse	Meeting Room D, Town Hall Hub 27 Bank Street Box Hill 3128	Last Friday of the month 1pm – 2:30pm
Knox Chinese Elderly Citizen's Club	Knox	Carrington Park Leisure Centre 20 O'Connor Rd Knoxfield 3180	Fridays 9am to 2pm

Other Support Services

Chinese Cancer Society of Victoria

Address: 784 Station Street, Box Hill Vic 3128

Tel: 9898 9575

Provides information, family support, community education, and support groups to cancer survivors, carers, and their family members.

Chinese Health Foundation of Australia

Address: Suite 12, Town Hall Hub, 27 Bank Street, Box Hill Vic 3128

Tel: 9285 4812

Provides information, community education, and support groups to Chinese communities on health issues.

Mental Health Support Group

Name of Organisation & Contact Details	LGA	Venue	Time
Action on Disability in Ethnic Community (ADEC) Chinese Mental Health Support Groups Ph: 9480 1666 or 1800 626 078	Monash	Mt Waverley Youth Centre 45 Miller Crescent Mt Waverley	3 rd Thursday of the month 11am – 2:30pm

China-born Chinese Cultural Profile

PLEASE NOTE: This profile provides an overview of some of the cultural information relating to the diverse groups of Chinese speaking people who were born in China and live in the Eastern Region of Melbourne. This description may not apply to all people as individual experiences may vary. However this profile can be used as a guide to some of the issues that may concern your clients.

Introduction:

China has a large and diverse population. The China-born Chinese community in Australia reflects this diversity through language, cuisine, and cultural values.

Migration:

- There is a long history of migration from China to Australia, as far back as second and third generation.
- An increasing number of elderly parents have also recently migrated from China to live with their adult children, often helping to look after their grandchildren.

Local Demographics: China-born residents in the Eastern Region

Local Government Area	Total population	Number of 70+ yrs	70 yrs as a % of the total China-born population
City of Boroondara	5929	378	6%
City of Knox	2251	157	7%
City of Manningham	7389	576	8%
City of Maroondah	660	50	8%
City of Monash	10887	500	5%
City of Whitehorse	7747	598	8%
Shire of Yarra Ranges	311	14	5%
Eastern Region	35174	2273	6%

(ABS Census 2006)

Language:

- The official spoken language of mainland China is Mandarin (Putonghuo). Other major dialects include Cantonese, Wu (Shanghainese), Hakka, Hokkien, Teo Chew and many more. 64.9% of Victoria's China-born speak Mandarin at home, 24.4% speak Cantonese.
- All languages use the same written characters (Simplified Chinese) and can be read by any person literate in Chinese, regardless of their spoken dialect.
- 31.4 % of the China-born population in Victoria who speak a language other than English at home, assessed themselves as speaking English 'not well' or 'not at all'. A higher portion of people aged over 60 had low English proficiency (ABS Census 2006).

Religion:

- According to the ABS 2006 Census, 60.8% of China-born people in Victoria have no religion. Others may practice Buddhism, Confucianism or Taoism or a mixture of these belief systems. The worship of ancestors may still be very strong in the belief system.
- There are a number of China-born people practicing Christianity.
- Some older people born in China may have small family shrines or sacred spaces within their homes that only family members are allowed to touch or clean.

Attitudes and Issues with Ageing:

- Traditionally in China, children and family members care for the elderly.
- Many older Chinese in Australia have become frustrated by their inability to speak or read English. They have to rely on their children for transportation and communication with service providers and the government is also a source of frustration.
- The existence of Chinese Senior Citizen's groups and other services for the Chinese speaking communities, in most areas, has helped to reduce their social isolation.
- The Chinese view age positively and as a sign of wisdom. There is a respect for, and a sense of duty towards elders and parents.
- Some older Chinese may experience intergenerational conflict with their Australian-born grandchildren.

Attitudes to Disability and Mental Illness:

- The China-born community regards disability as shameful, and a strong cultural stigma is attached to mental illness in particular. A China-born person with a disability and their family may believe that they are paying a debt that is owed, in other words that the disability is punishment for wrongdoing by the person or the family in a previous life.
- Parents are responsible for their children's wellbeing. China-born parents of a child with a disability may feel this responsibility more heavily if they are exposed to social criticism.

Customs / Values:

- China-born people regard 'saving face', and not being publicly embarrassed or causing shame to the family as important. Emotional self-control is highly valued and arguments or disagreements are kept to a minimum.
- The family is the core unit. Family structure is traditionally hierarchal and patriarchal, with the eldest adult male the primary decision-maker in health and other matters. Older children have precedence over younger children and male children over female children.
- China-born people may express loyalty and affection through practical gifts.
- Families tend to be private and reluctant to discuss family issues or conflict with non-family members.

Communication Styles:

- China-born people prefer to display little emotion. Passivity is often a response to conflict.
- Some China-born people may interpret assertiveness as aggressiveness.
- Some China-born people may feel that saying 'no' is impolite. They may answer 'yes' to questions, acknowledging that they are listening, rather than that they are in agreement.
- Touching someone's head is an offensive behaviour to Chinese elderly.

Naming Conventions:

- Chinese names are traditionally written with the surname first, followed by the given name. China-born women retain their own surnames but some add their husband's surname to their own on marriage. Many Chinese people have adopted the Australian style of naming, they have adopted 'western' first names.
- China-born people generally prefer to be addressed by their title. For example, Mr, Mrs, Dr, Sir.

Health Beliefs and Practices:

- Chinese people consider health to be a state of harmony between forces of Yin (negative) and Yang (positive), and that illness is a result of disharmony or imbalance between these forces. The purpose of treatment interventions is to assist in restoring harmony and balance.
- Chinese people may use a combination of traditional and biomedical practices. Traditional health practices include acupuncture, acupressure and Chinese herbs. Cupping is a remedy used for a range of ailments. Usually performed on the forehead, the abdomen, and the base of the nose, between the eyes and on the neck, chest or back. This practice can result in bruises or marks, it is important not to mistake the resulting marks as a sign of abuse.
- There is a tendency to assume a passive sick role, relying heavily on other family members.

Greetings:

English Greeting	Mandarin	Closest English Pronunciation
Hello (How are you?)	你好嗎	NI HAO MA
Good Morning	早上好	JAO SHANG HAO
Goodbye	再見	ZAI JEN
Yes	是	SHI
No	不是	BU SHI
Thankyou	謝謝	SHEA SHEA

For Cantonese greetings see Hong Kong Chinese cultural profile.

Hong Kong-born Chinese Cultural Profile

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Migration:

- The Hong Kong-born community in Melbourne is primarily Cantonese speaking, tertiary educated professionals or business people.
- The community has increased rapidly in size since the mid-1980s.
- The largest populations in Melbourne reside in Manningham and Monash.

Local Demographics: Hong Kong-born Residents in the Eastern Region

Local Government Area	Total population	Number of 70+ yrs	70 yrs as a % of total Hong Kong born population
City of Boroondara	1752	56	3%
City of Knox	789	23	3%
City of Manningham	2763	81	3%
City of Maroondah	180	5	3%
City of Monash	2491	46	2%
City of Whitehorse	1910	61	3%
Shire of Yarra Ranges	88	3	3%
Eastern Region	9973	275	3%

(ABS Census 2006)

Language:

- Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese) and English are the official languages of Hong Kong. However, Cantonese is most widely spoken. Traditional Form is used as the written Chinese language.
- English proficiency is generally high in the younger generations and business circles. In general the older generation have lower levels of English.

Religion:

- Hong Kong-born Chinese may practice Buddhism, Confucianism or Taoism. There are also a number of Hong Kong-born people who are practicing Christians.
- Many of the religious observances are closely connected to specific events such as births, deaths and marriages.
- Some people born in Hong Kong may have small family shrines or sacred spaces within their homes that only family members are allowed to touch or clean.

Attitudes and Issues with Ageing and Aged Services:

- In Hong Kong the elderly are traditionally cared for by their children and other family members.
- Many of the elderly in Australia become frustrated by their inability to speak or read English.

- Older people have to rely heavily on their children for transport and communication with social support services and the government.
- The existence of Chinese Senior Citizen's groups and other services for the Chinese speaking communities in most areas has helped to reduce their social isolation. The availability of authentic Chinese food, magazines and newspapers in local shops has also eased this transition.
- Many older people in Australia take a role in caring for grandchildren.
- Unlike the China-born Chinese, Hong Kong born Chinese people may be more familiar with the Australian service system due to the influence of the British in Hong Kong in the past. They may have more understanding of government provided aged care services and be more familiar with the different types of services provided.

Attitudes to Disability and Mental Illness:

- Hong Kong-born people regard disability as shameful and a strong cultural stigma is attached to mental illness in particular.
- Anecdotally, local disability organisations find it difficult to access families, as they are reluctant to use mainstream services.

Customs / Values:

- The family is traditionally hierarchical and patriarchal in structure. The eldest adult male is generally the primary decision-maker in health and other matters. Older children have precedence over younger children and male children over female children.
- Families tend to be private and reluctant to discuss family issues or conflict with non-family members.
- A respect for and a sense of duty towards elders and parents are important cultural values.
- There is a desire to avoid 'loss of face' or the bringing of shame to the family. It is important to conform to family and societal norms. Hong Kong-born people in general, exhibit emotional self-control, particularly in public. They desire to keep arguments or disagreements to a minimum.

Communication Styles:

- Some Hong Kong-born people may interpret assertiveness as aggressiveness.
- Some Hong Kong-born people may feel that saying 'no' is impolite. Sometimes they may answer 'yes' to questions when they are acknowledging that they are listening. However they may not have understood what has been said. They may smile to conceal embarrassment or the fact that they do not understand.
- Touching someone's head is an offensive behaviour to Hong Kong-born elderly.

Naming Conventions:

- Chinese names are traditionally written with the surname first, followed by the given name. Some Hong Kong-born people have adopted the Australian style of naming. A number of Hong Kong-born Chinese have also adopted 'western' first names. Women traditionally retain their own names or add their husband's surname to their own on marriage.
- Hong Kong-born people generally prefer to be addressed by their title, for example: Mr., Mrs. and Dr.

Health Beliefs and Practices:

- Hong Kong-born people tend to assume a passive sick role, relying heavily on other family members.
- Hong Kong-born people may use a combination of traditional and biomedical practices. Traditional health practices include acupuncture, dietary restrictions and Chinese herbs.
- Cupping is a remedy used for a range of ailments and is usually performed on the forehead; the abdomen, the base of the nose, between the eyes and on the neck; chest or back. This can result in bruises or marks, it is important not to mistake the resulting marks as a sign of abuse.

Greetings:

English Greeting	Cantonese	Closest English Pronunciation
Hello (How are you?)	你好嗎?	LAY HO MA
Good Morning	早晨	CHO SAN
Good Afternoon	午安	NG ON
Goodbye	再見	ZHOI KING
Yes	嚟	HAI / HO (OK)
No	唔嚟	NG HAI / NG HO (NOT OK)
Thankyou	多謝	DOOR ZEY